

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD INTRODUCES RURAL COLORADO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

*Legislation would authorize \$50 million for water, wastewater projects
for Colorado*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) on Wednesday introduced the Rural Colorado Water Infrastructure Act, a bill that will allow Colorado to participate in a program known as Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act.

The legislation will allow Colorado communities to enter into cost-share agreements with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to develop and build water-supply and wastewater-treatment facilities, storm-water retention and remediation projects, environmental restoration projects and surface water resource protection and development projects.

“Many small communities in Colorado cannot meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, or comply with regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency because of increasingly onerous unfunded federal drinking water standards,” Senator Allard said.

“This legislation authorizes \$50 million for design and construction assistance for most rural Colorado communities, with the federal government providing up to 75 percent of the funding” Senator Allard said. “Cities in Colorado such as Alamosa, Sterling and Julesburg, which face enormous costs to develop new facilities, may be able to utilize this public-private partnership program and save themselves from economic ruin.”

“A good example of the problem we face is that Colorado and a number of other Western states have natural shale deposits that include selenium, which leaches into our streams, rivers and lakes at concentrations that exceed proposed standards,” Senator Allard said.

“Although little hard science exists that explores the complexity of their particular problems, cities and towns in rural areas continue to be held to very expensive new standards,” Senator Allard said. “I have been working on many projects in Colorado to relieve the strain on rural communities, including the Arkansas Valley Conduit and now the Rural Colorado Water Infrastructure Act, to give Colorado’s rural communities the ability to address the new federal rules and regulations that have been imposed on them by the EPA.”